

BY  
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No. 10

# *We Gather Together*

**Services of Public Worship:**

Word and Table

Baptism, Confirmation, and Renewal

Christian Marriage

Death and Resurrection

SUPPLEMENTAL WORSHIP RESOURCES 10

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WE GATHER TOGETHER  
Services of Public Worship

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# A BASIC PATTERN OF WORSHIP

## ENTRANCE AND PRAISE

The people come together in the Lord's name. There may be greetings, music and song, prayer and praise.

## PROCLAMATION AND PRAISE

The Scriptures are opened to the people through readings, preaching, witnessing, music, or other arts and media. Interspersed may be psalms, anthems, or hymns.

## RESPONSES AND OFFERINGS

Responses to God's Word include acts of commitment and faith with offerings of concerns, prayers, gifts, and service for the world and for one another.

## THE HOLY MEAL

The actions of Jesus in the upper room are reenacted:  
taking the bread and cup,  
giving thanks over the bread and cup,  
breaking the bread, and  
giving the bread and cup.

## SENDING FORTH

The people are sent into the world with the Lord's blessing.

# AN ORDER OF SUNDAY WORSHIP

Gathering  
Greeting  
Hymn of Praise  
Opening Prayer(s)  
Act of Praise  
Prayer for Illumination  
Scripture Lesson  
Psalm or Anthem  
Scripture Lesson  
Hymn or Song  
Gospel Lesson  
Sermon  
Response to the Word  
Concerns and Prayers  
The Peace  
Offering

or

## *Non-Communion Days*

Prayer of Thanksgiving  
Lord's Prayer

## *Communion Days*

Taking the Bread and Cup  
Great Thanksgiving  
Breaking the Bread  
Giving the Bread and Cup

Hymn or Song  
Dismissal with Blessing  
Going Forth



The bread and wine are brought to the Lord's Table or are uncovered, if already in place. The minister makes any necessary preparation of the elements and then prays the Great Thanksgiving according to the following pattern:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The minister gives thanks appropriate to the occasion, remembering God's acts of salvation, and concludes:

Therefore, with your people in all ages  
and the whole company of heaven,  
we join in the song of unending praise, saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The minister continues the thanksgiving, recalls the institution of the Lord's Supper, prays that we may be joined with Christ's offering for us, invokes the power of the Holy Spirit, and praises the Trinity, concluding:

All glory and honor is yours, Almighty God (Father)  
now and for ever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER see outside back cover

The Minister breaks the bread.

The bread and wine are given to the people with these or other words being exchanged:

The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.

The blood of Christ, given for you. Amen.

The congregation sings hymns.

## CONCERNING AN ORDER OF SUNDAY WORSHIP

Flexibility is a necessity for all orders of worship in our day. They must be adaptable to the differing needs and circumstances in which a diverse church gathers together for worship. This order is designed to express the historical and theological bases that give integrity to Christian worship.

Emphasis is placed on reading and preaching God's Word. But the number of lections and accompanying acts of praise can vary according to the situation of each worshiping congregation.

The response to the Word can vary according to the place and the occasion. In the penitential seasons of Advent and Lent, the opening prayer(s) may often be confession and pardon. On other occasions, the nature of the lections and sermon may dictate that confession and pardon would function better as a response to the Word. On any occasion, the response to the Word may take the form of an invitation to Christian discipleship, a hymn, Baptism, or a creed.

On Sundays when the Lord's Supper is not celebrated, the offering is followed by the prayer of thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer. On Communion days, the form on page 3 can be followed by using *At the Lord's Table* for the minister's part. That book of Communion resources is essential for maximum use of this service. It provides a wide range of Communion prayers for use at various occasions occurring in the worship life of any congregation. The people follow the parts on page 3 while the minister uses the resources found in *At the Lord's Table* (Supplemental Worship Resources #9, Abingdon, 1980).

Parts of the service used only on Communion occasions are indicated by pink background. Optional parts on any occasion are indicated by gray background.

# A SUNDAY SERVICE

## ENTRANCE AND PRAISE

### GATHERING

### GREETING

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

The risen Christ is with us.

**Praise the Lord!**

### HYMN OF PRAISE

### OPENING PRAYER(S)

*The opening prayer(s) may be a prayer of the day or confession and pardon (see page 6).*

### ACT OF PRAISE

*"Glory to God in the Highest," an anthem, or another act of praise may be sung or said.*

## PROCLAMATION AND PRAISE

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, open our hearts and minds  
by the power of your Holy Spirit  
that, as the Scriptures are read  
and your Word proclaimed,  
we may hear with joy what you say to us today.  
**Amen.**

### SCRIPTURE LECTURE

### PSALM OR ANTHEM

### SCRIPTURE LECTURE



## THE HOLY MEAL

### TAKING THE BREAD AND CUP

**The bread and wine are prepared for the meal.**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Father, it is right that we should always  
and everywhere give you thanks and praise.

Only you are God.

You created all things and called them good.

You made us in your own image.

Even though we rebelled against your love,  
you did not desert us.

You delivered us from captivity,  
made covenant to be our Sovereign God,  
and spoke to us through your prophets.

Therefore, we join the entire company of heaven  
and all your people now on earth  
in worshiping and glorifying you:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

We thank you, holy Lord God,  
that you loved the world so much  
you sent your only Son to be our Savior.  
The Lord of all life came to live among us.



# A SUNDAY SERVICE

## ENTRANCE AND PRAISE

### GATHERING

### GREETING

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

The risen Christ is with us.

**Praise the Lord!**

### HYMN OF PRAISE

### OPENING PRAYER(S)

*The opening prayer(s) may be a prayer of the day or confession and pardon (see page 6).*

### ACT OF PRAISE

*"Glory to God in the Highest," an anthem, or another act of praise may be sung or said.*

## PROCLAMATION AND PRAISE

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, open our hearts and minds  
by the power of your Holy Spirit  
that, as the Scriptures are read  
and your Word proclaimed,  
we may hear with joy what you say to us today.  
**Amen.**

### SCRIPTURE LECTURE

### PSALM OR ANTHEM

### SCRIPTURE LECTURE

HYMN OR SONG

GOSPEL LECTION

SERMON

RESPONSES AND OFFERINGS

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

**This may include:**

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Hymn

Baptism (see page 13)

Creed (see back cover)

Confession and Pardon (as follows)

**Minister:** Let us confess our sin  
before God and one another.

Merciful God,  
we confess that often we have failed  
to be an obedient church.  
We have not done your will,  
we have broken your law,  
we have rebelled against your love,  
we have not loved our neighbors, and  
we have not heard the cry of the needy.  
Forgive us, we pray.  
Free us for joyful obedience,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**All pray in silence.**

**Minister:** Hear the good news:  
"Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;  
that is proof of God's love toward us."  
In the name of Jesus Christ,  
you are forgiven!

**People:** In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**Minister and People:** Glory to God. Amen.

## CONCERNS AND PRAYERS

Concerns may be spoken spontaneously, to which all may make a common response, such as:

**"Lord, hear our prayer."**

Or, a pastoral prayer may be offered.

## THE PEACE

Christ our Lord invites to his table  
all who love him and who desire to live  
in peace with one another.

Therefore, let us stand and offer one another  
signs of reconciliation and love.

or

Christ our Lord calls all who love him  
to live in peace with one another.  
Therefore, let us stand and offer one another  
signs of reconciliation and love.

All stand and exchange signs and words of God's peace.

## OFFERING

As forgiven and reconciled people,  
let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

A hymn may be sung while the gifts are brought to the Lord's Table.

If Communion is to be celebrated, the bread and wine may be brought forward with the money.

If Communion is not celebrated, a prayer of thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer (see outside back cover) follow. The service then resumes with the Sending Forth on page 11.



## THE HOLY MEAL

### TAKING THE BREAD AND CUP

The bread and wine are prepared for the meal.

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Father, it is right that we should always  
and everywhere give you thanks and praise.

Only you are God.

You created all things and called them good.

You made us in your own image.

Even though we rebelled against your love,  
you did not desert us.

You delivered us from captivity,  
made covenant to be our Sovereign God,  
and spoke to us through your prophets.

Therefore, we join the entire company of heaven  
and all your people now on earth  
in worshiping and glorifying you:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

We thank you, holy Lord God,  
that you loved the world so much  
you sent your only Son to be our Savior.  
The Lord of all life came to live among us.



He healed and taught,  
ate with sinners,  
and won for you a new people  
by water and the Spirit.  
We saw his glory.  
Yet he humbled himself in obedience to your will,  
freely accepting death on a cross.  
By dying, he freed us from unending death;  
by rising from the dead, he gave us everlasting life.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,  
the Lord Jesus took bread.

After giving you thanks,  
he broke the bread,  
gave it to his disciples, and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.  
When the supper was over,  
he took the cup.

Again he returned thanks to you,  
gave the cup to his disciples, and said:  
Drink from this, all of you,  
this is the cup of the new covenant in my blood,  
poured out for you and many,  
for the forgiveness of sins.

When we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
we experience anew  
the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ  
and look forward to his coming in final victory.

**Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**

We experience anew, most merciful God,  
the suffering and death,  
the resurrection and ascension of your Son,  
asking you to accept  
this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
which we offer  
in union with Christ's offering for us,  
as a living and holy surrender of ourselves.

Send the power of your Holy Spirit on us,  
gathered here out of love for you,  
and on these gifts.

May the Spirit help us know  
in the breaking of this bread  
and the drinking of this wine  
the presence of Christ  
who gave his body and blood for all.  
And may the Spirit make us one with Christ,  
one with each other,  
and one in service to all the world.

Through your Son Jesus Christ  
with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,  
all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father  
now and for ever.

**Amen.**

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER *see outside back cover*

BREAKING THE BREAD

*The minister breaks the bread in silence or while saying:*  
Because there is one loaf,  
we, many as we are, are one body:  
for it is one loaf of which we all partake.  
When we break the bread,  
is it not a sharing in the body of Christ?

*The minister lifts the cup in silence or while saying:*  
When we give thanks over the cup,  
is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ?

## GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

The bread and wine are given to the people with these or other words being exchanged:

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**  
The blood of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The congregation sings hymns. When all have received, the Lord's Table is put in order.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

You have given yourself to us, Lord.  
Now we give ourselves for others.  
Your love has made us a new people:  
**As a people of love we will serve you with joy.**  
Your glory has filled our hearts;  
**help us to glorify you in all things.**  
**Amen.**

## SENDING FORTH

### HYMN OR SONG

### DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Go in peace to serve God and your neighbor  
in all that you do.  
**We are sent in Christ's name.**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ  
and the love of God  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.  
**Amen.**

### GOING FORTH

# THE CALENDAR

## *Seasons*

### ADVENT

First Sunday in Advent . . .  
to Fourth Sunday in Advent

### CHRISTMAS SEASON

First Sunday after Christmas . . .  
to [Second Sunday after  
Christmas]

### SEASON AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Second Sunday after the  
Epiphany . . .  
to [Eighth Sunday after the  
Epiphany]

### LENT

First Sunday in Lent . . .  
to Fifth Sunday in Lent

### SEASON OF EASTER

Second Sunday of Easter . . .  
to Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Seventh Sunday of Easter

### SEASON AFTER PENTECOST

Second Sunday after  
Pentecost . . . to [Twenty-  
seventh Sunday after  
Pentecost]

## *Festivals*

Christmas Eve and Day  
(December 25)

The Epiphany, or the Manifesta-  
tion of God in Jesus Christ  
(January 6)

First Sunday after the Epiphany,  
or the Baptism of the Lord  
Last Sunday after the Epiphany,  
or the Transfiguration of the  
Lord

Ash Wednesday

Holy Week

Palm/Passion Sunday

Monday, Tuesday,  
Wednesday

Maundy Thursday

Good Friday

Holy Saturday

Easter Eve and Day

Ascension Day (Sixth Thursday  
of Easter)

The Day of Pentecost, or the  
Descent of the Holy Spirit

First Sunday after Pentecost, or  
Trinity Sunday

All Saints' Day (November 1)

Last Sunday after Pentecost, or  
Christ the King



# A SERVICE OF BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION, AND RENEWAL

Through the sacrament of Baptism,  
we are initiated into Christ's holy Church.  
We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation  
and given new birth through water and the Spirit.  
All this is a gift of God, offered to us without price.  
Through Confirmation and other renewals  
of the baptismal covenant,  
we acknowledge what God is doing for us,  
and we affirm our commitment to Christ's Church.

**A representative of the congregation presents the candidates:**

I present (name[s]), seeking admission into the Body of Christ  
through Baptism.

I present (name[s]) for Confirmation.

I present (name[s]) for the renewal of the baptismal covenant.

## RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

**The congregation joins the candidates in their renunciation of  
sin and profession of the faith contained in the Old and New  
Testaments:**

Do you renounce the bondage of sin  
and the injustices of this world  
and do you accept the liberty which God gives you  
[and do you pledge to encourage these whom you sponsor  
to do the same]?

✓ I do.

Do you give yourself to Christ's service  
and do you confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior  
[by word and example teaching these whom you sponsor  
to do the same]?

✓ I do.

Do you believe in God the Father?  
I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
[He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again  
to judge the living and the dead.]

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
[the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting].  
Amen.

#### THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

Water may be poured into the font at this time.

The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.  
Let us pray.  
Eternal God,  
when nothing existed but chaos,  
you swept across the waters of creation  
and brought forth life.  
In the days of Noah  
you saved those on the ark through water.  
After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow.  
When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt,  
you led them to freedom through the sea.

Their children you brought through the Jordan  
to the land which you promised.

**Sing to the Lord all the earth.  
Tell of God's mercy each day.**

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus,  
nurtured in the water of a womb.  
He was baptized by John  
and anointed by your Spirit.  
He called his disciples  
to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection  
and to make disciples of all nations.

**Declare his works to the nations,  
his glory among all the people.**

By the power of your Holy Spirit,  
bless this gift of water  
and those who receive it.  
Wash away their sin  
and clothe them in righteousness  
that dying and being raised with Christ,  
they may await his final victory.

**All praise to you, Eternal Father,  
through your Son, Jesus Christ,  
who with you and the Holy Spirit  
lives and reigns for ever.  
Amen.**

## **BAPTISM WITH LAYING ON OF HANDS**

As each candidate is baptized, the minister says:  
(Name), I baptize you in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

As hands are placed on the head of each person receiving  
Baptism, the minister says to each:  
The power of the Holy Spirit work within you,  
that being born through water and the Spirit

you may be a faithful witness of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

When all candidates have been baptized, the minister says to them:

Through Baptism you are incorporated  
into God's new creation by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood.

With joy and thanksgiving,  
we welcome you as new member[s] of Christ's holy Church.  
We are all one in Christ Jesus.

## CONFIRMATION AND OTHER RENEWALS OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Water may be sprinkled toward:

all persons being confirmed,

or persons making a special renewal of their baptismal faith,

or the entire congregation when there is a general renewal of  
baptismal faith.

The minister says:

Remember your Baptism and be thankful.

**Amen.**

As hands are placed upon the head of each person being  
confirmed or making a special renewal, the minister says:

(Name), the power of the Holy Spirit work within you,  
that, having been born through water and the Spirit,  
you may continue to be a faithful witness of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## PROFESSION OR RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The minister asks those coming into membership in The  
United Methodist Church:



As member[s] of Christ's universal Church,  
will you be loyal to The United Methodist Church,  
participating in its mission by your prayers,  
your presence, your gifts, and your service?  
I will.

The minister asks those coming into membership in this  
congregation:

As new member[s] of this congregation,  
will you do all in your power  
to strengthen this community of faith  
and to serve the world as Christ's representative[s]?

I will.

## COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

Members of the family of God,  
I commend to you these person[s].  
Do all in your power to increase **their** faith,  
confirm **their** hope,  
and perfect **them** in love.

We give thanks  
for the faith God has worked within you.  
We pledge to you  
our Christian love and hospitality  
as those who also live by hope.  
Together with you and all Christians  
we seek the unity of the Spirit  
in the bond of peace,  
that in everything God may be glorified  
through Jesus Christ.

Acts of welcome and peace may be exchanged at this time. If  
Communion is celebrated, the new members may receive first.

# A SERVICE OF CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

## ENTRANCE AND PRAISE

While the people gather, instrumental or vocal music may be offered.

During the entrance of the wedding party, there may be instrumental music, or a hymn, a psalm, a canticle, or an anthem.

### Minister to people:

Friends, we are gathered as the Church  
to celebrate and praise God  
for the union of (name) and (name) in marriage.  
The bond and union of marriage were ordained by God,  
who created us male and female for each other.  
The Apostle Paul announced that where Christ is present,  
there is surely equality as well as unity.  
With his presence and power, Jesus graced a wedding  
at Cana of Galilee.  
(Name) and (name) have come here to join in marriage.

### Minister to the persons who are to marry:

Christ calls you into union with him and with one another.  
I ask you now in the presence of God and this congregation  
to declare your intent.

### Minister to the woman:

Will you have this man to be your husband,  
to live together in a holy marriage?  
Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him  
in sickness and in health,  
and forsaking all other, be faithful to him  
as long as you both shall live?

### Woman:

I will.

**Minister to the man:**

Will you have this woman to be your wife,  
to live together in a holy marriage?  
Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her  
in sickness and in health,  
and forsaking all other, be faithful to her  
as long as you both shall live?

**Man:**

I will.

**Minister to people:**

The marriage of (name) and (name) unites two families  
and creates a new one.  
They ask for your blessing.

**Parents or other representatives of the families, if present:**  
We rejoice in your union, and pray God's blessing upon you.

**People:**

In the name of Jesus Christ we love you.  
By his grace, we commit ourselves with you  
to the bonds of marriage and the Christian home.

**Minister to people:**

Will all of you, by God's grace,  
do everything in your power to uphold and care  
for these two persons in their marriage?

**People:**

We will.

## PROCLAMATION AND PRAISE

**Minister to people:**

The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**Minister:**

Let us pray.

God of all peoples,  
we rejoice in your life in the midst of our lives.  
You are the true light illumining everyone.  
You show us the way, the truth, and the life.  
You love us even when we are unfaithful.  
You sustain us with your Holy Spirit.  
We praise you for your presence with us,  
and especially in this act of solemn covenant.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

One or more lections from Scripture are read; a hymn, psalm, canticle, anthem, or other music may be said or sung; and a sermon or other witness to Christian marriage is made. Extemporaneous intercessory prayer may be offered or the following:

Let us pray:

Gracious God,  
bless this man and woman  
who come now to join in marriage,  
that they may give their vows to each other  
in the strength and spirit of your steadfast love.  
Let the promise of your word  
root and grow in their lives.  
Grant them vision and hope  
to persevere in trust and friendship all their days.  
Keep ever before them the needs of the world.  
By your grace  
enable them to be true disciples of Jesus Christ,  
in whose name we pray.

**Amen.**

## THE MARRIAGE

The woman and man face each other, joining hands.

**Man to woman:**



In the name of God, I, (name), take you, (name),  
to be my wife,  
to have and to hold from this day forward,  
for better for worse, for richer for poorer,  
in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish,  
until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

**Woman to man:**

In the name of God, I, (name), take you, (name),  
to be my husband,  
to have and to hold from this day forward,  
for better for worse, for richer for poorer,  
in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish,  
until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

**The minister may bless the giving of rings or other symbols of the marriage.**

Bless, O Lord, the giving of these rings (symbols),  
that they who wear them may live in your peace,  
and continue in your favor all the days of their life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**The giver(s) may say to the recipient:**

(Name), I give you this ring as a sign of my vow,  
and with all that I am, and all that I have,  
I honor you  
[in the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit].

**The wife and husband join hands. The minister may place a hand or stole on their joined hands.**

**Minister to husband and wife:**

You have declared your consent and vows  
before God and this congregation.  
May God confirm your covenant,  
and fill you both with grace.

**Minister to people:**

Now that **(name)** and **(name)**  
have given themselves to each other by solemn vows,  
with the joining of hands, and the giving of rings,  
I announce to you that they are husband and wife  
in the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
Those whom God has joined together,  
let no one separate.

**People:**

**Amen.**

A doxology or other hymn may be sung.

## THANKSGIVING

The service continues with one of the following three options:

### OPTION A: THANKSGIVING AND LORD'S PRAYER

**Minister to people:**

Friends, let us give thanks to the Lord.

**People:**

**Thanks be to God.**

The minister offers a prayer or litany of thanksgiving and all respond with the Lord's Prayer (see outside back cover). Here may be a hymn or Psalm 128.

### OPTION B: HOLY COMMUNION

**Minister to people:**

As forgiven and reconciled people,  
let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

Here the husband and wife or representatives of the congregation may bring the elements to the Lord's Table. Turn to page 3.

(Minister, see *At the Lord's Table*.)

## OPTION C: AGAPÉ MEAL

An appropriate form may be devised for the occasion. It may include an offering for the needy and hungry of the world, Scripture, testimonies, extemporaneous prayer, the Lord's Prayer, and sharing of the meal.

## SENDING FORTH

### DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

**Minister:**

God the Eternal keep you in love with each other,  
so that the peace of Christ may abide in your home.

Go to serve God and your neighbor  
in all that you do.

Bear witness to the love of God in this world  
so that those to whom love is a stranger  
will find in you generous friends.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ  
and the love of God  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.

**People:**

**Amen.**

### THE PEACE

**Minister:**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People:**

**And also with you.**

The couple and minister(s) may greet each other, after which greetings may be exchanged throughout the congregation.

A hymn may be sung or other instrumental music may be played as the people leave.

# A SERVICE OF DEATH AND RESURRECTION

## ENTRANCE AND PRAISE

The minister may welcome the family.

Music for worship may be offered while the people gather.

Hymns and songs of faith may be sung any time during the gathering.

If the coffin is already in place, the minister says the following sentences. If not, it may be carried into the place of worship in procession, the minister going before it and saying the sentences.

## THE WORD OF GRACE

Jesus said, I am the Resurrection and I am Life.

Those who believe in me, even though they die,  
yet shall they live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall  
never die.

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end,  
the first and the last.

I died, and behold I am alive forever more,  
and I hold the keys of hell and death.

Because I live, you shall live also.

## GREETING

Friends, we have gathered here to praise God  
and to witness to our faith as we celebrate the life of (name).  
We come together in grief acknowledging our human loss.  
May God search our hearts, that in pain we may find comfort,  
in sorrow hope, in death resurrection.



The following sentences may be added immediately after the Greeting if they have not been used earlier at the placing of the pall on the coffin.

Dying, Christ destroyed our death.

Rising, Christ restored our life.

Christ will come again in glory.

As in Baptism (name) put on Christ,

so in Christ may (name) be clothed with glory.

Here and now, dear friends, we are God's children.

What we shall be has not yet been revealed.

But we know that when he appears we shall be like him,  
for we shall see him as he is.

Those who have this hope purify themselves as Christ  
is pure.

#### HYMN OR SONG

#### PRAYER

The following or other prayers may be offered, in unison if desired. Petition for God's help, thanksgiving for the communion of saints, confession of sin and assurance of pardon are appropriate here.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, who gave us birth,

you are ever more ready to hear than we are to pray.

You know our needs before we ask,

and our ignorance in asking.

Give to us now your grace,

that as we shrink before the mystery of death

we may see the light of eternity.

Speak to us once more your solemn message of life and of death.

Help us to live as those who are prepared to die.

And when our summons comes,  
may we die as those who go forth to live,  
so that living or dying, our life may be in you,  
and nothing in life or in death will be able  
to separate us from your great love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

and/or

Eternal God, we praise you for the great company  
of all those who have finished their course in faith  
and now rest from their labor.

We praise you for those dear to us  
whom we name in our hearts before you.

We praise you for your child (name),  
whom you have taken to yourself.

Grant peace to their souls.

Let perpetual light shine upon them.

And help us so to believe where we have not seen,  
that your presence may lead us through our years,  
and bring us at last with them into the joy

of your home not made with hands  
but eternal in the heavens;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

and/or

Holy God, before you our hearts are open  
and from you no secrets are hidden.

We bring to you now  
our shame and sorrow for our sins.

We have forgotten  
that our life is from you and unto you.

We have neither sought nor done your will.

We have not been truthful in our hearts,  
in our speech, in our lives.

We have not loved as we ought to love.

Help us and heal us, we pray.

Raise us from our sins into a better life,  
that we may end our days in peace

trusting in your kindness unto the end;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God now and for ever.

Amen.

PARDON

Who is in a position to condemn?

Only Christ, Christ who died for us, who rose for us,  
who reigns at God's right hand and prays for us.

Thanks be to God who gives us the victory  
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

PSALM 130

Out of the depths I cry unto thee, O Lord!

Lord, hear my cry.

Let thine ears be attentive

to the voice of my supplication.

If thou, Lord, should mark iniquities,

Lord, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness with thee,

that thou may be feared.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,

and in his word do I hope.

My soul waits for the Lord

more than those who watch for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the Lord!

For with the Lord is great mercy.

With him is plenteous redemption,

and he will redeem Israel from all their sins.

# PROCLAMATION AND PRAISE

## OLD TESTAMENT LECTION

### PSALM 23

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:  
he leadeth me beside the still waters.  
He restoreth my soul:  
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness  
for his name's sake.  
Yea, though I walk  
through the valley of the shadow  
of death,  
I will fear no evil:  
for thou art with me;  
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.  
Thou preparest a table before me  
in the presence of mine enemies:  
thou anointest my head with oil:  
my cup runneth over.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life:  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

### EPISTLE

### GOSPEL

### SERMON

A brief sermon may be preached, proclaiming the gospel in the face of death. It may lead into, or include, the following acts of naming and witness. These should be concluded with a hymn or song.



## NAMING

The life and death of the deceased may be gathered up by the reading of a memorial or appropriate statement, or in other ways, by the minister or others.

## WITNESS

Family, friends, members of the congregation may briefly voice their thankfulness to God for the grace they have received in the life of the deceased, and their Christian faith and joy. Signs of faith, hope, and love may be exchanged.

## HYMN OR SONG

## OFFERING OF LIFE

CREED [see back cover](#)

## PRAYERS

The following or other prayers may be offered. They may take the form of a pastoral prayer, a series of shorter prayers, or a litany. Intercession, commendation of life, and thanksgiving are appropriate here, concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

God of us all, your love never ends.  
When all else fails, you still are God.  
We pray to you for one another in our need,  
and for all, anywhere, who mourn with us this day.  
To those who doubt, give light;  
to those who are weak, strength;  
to all who have sinned, mercy;  
to all who sorrow, your peace.  
Keep true in us the love with which we hold each other.  
In all our ways we trust you.  
And to you, with your Church on earth and in heaven,  
we offer honor and glory, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

O God, all that you have given us is yours.

As first you gave (name) to us

so now we give (name) back to you.

Here the pastor, with other celebrants, standing near the coffin, may lay hands on it, continuing:

Receive (name) into the arms of your mercy.

Raise (name) up with all your people.

Receive us also, our selves, our souls, our bodies,  
and raise us into a new life.

Help us so to love and serve you in this world  
that we may enter into your joy in the world to come.

**Amen.**

## HOLY COMMUNION

The minister may administer the sacrament to all present who wish to share at the Lord's Table, using the order on page 3. (Minister, see *At the Lord's Table*.) Otherwise, the service continues with the following:

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God of love, we thank you for all the happiness  
with which you have blessed us even to this day:

for the gift of life; for home and friends;

for health and strength;

for work, and nature, and beauty;

for our baptism and place in your Church  
with all who have faithfully lived and died.

More than all else, we thank you for Jesus  
who knew our griefs,

who died our death and rose for our sake,  
and who lives and prays for us.

As he taught us, so now we pray.

LORD'S PRAYER *see back cover*

HYMN OR SONG

## SENDING FORTH

### DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

The minister, facing the people, says one or more of the following or other words of dismissal with blessing.

Now may the God of Peace  
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,  
the great Shepherd of the sheep,  
by the blood of the eternal covenant,  
equip you with everything good  
that you may do his will,  
working in you that which is pleasing in his sight,  
through Jesus Christ;  
to whom be glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The peace of God which passes all understanding  
keep your hearts and minds  
in the knowledge and love of God,  
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.  
And the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Now may the Father  
from whom every family in heaven and on earth  
is named,  
according to the riches of his glory,  
grant you to be strengthened with might  
through his Spirit in your inner being,  
that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith;  
that you, being rooted and grounded in love,  
may be able to comprehend with all the saints  
what is the breadth and length and height and depth,  
and to know the love of Christ  
which surpasses knowledge,  
that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. **Amen.**

### RECESSIONAL

A committal service may follow.



## EPILOGUE

The services herein represent second-generation versions of various materials appearing in previous Supplemental Worship Resources: *The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper* (1972), *A Service of Baptism, Confirmation, and Renewal* (1976), *Word and Table* (1976), *A Service of Christian Marriage* (1979), and *A Service of Death and Resurrection* (1979). Ministers and worship committee members should consult the introductions and commentaries found in those volumes (except *The Lord's Supper*) in order to make better use of the materials in this book.

Comments on these services are welcomed, especially on the basis of actual use. All reactions and suggestions should be sent to:

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## THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son  
he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church:  
We acknowledge one baptism  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever.  
Amen.

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.

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